holding of 67.72% through the "book building process'. It was also decided that upto 15% of the equity offered for sale will be reserved for the employees of BHEL. However, letters have been received from workers unions and others opposing disinvestment in BHEL. The objections are under consideration. No further decision has been taken in this matter.

Settlement of claims of depositors

1606. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be oleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships caused to the survivors/dependents of a deceased in claiming the amounts left by the deceased in his/her account, despite nominations in respect of single bank account because of different interpretations given or procedures followed by these Banks;

(b) whether Government propose to evolve a fool proof and uniform procedure devoid in inconvenience to the survivors; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being colleted and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Branches of Regional Rural Banks

†1607. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Regional Rural Banks presently functioning in the country, especially in North-Eastern States alongwith their locations;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to open more new branches of banks in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Counterfeiting of Indian currency notes

1608. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that outdated technology at Nasik Press has made counterfeiting in Indian currency easy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the fake currency market is estimated between Rs. 10000 and Rs. 20000 crores;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that US secret Service will be helping India combat fake currency menaces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is difficult to provide estimates on circulation of fake currency in the country. However, as per information funished by RBI, the value of the counterfeited notes detected at RBI issue offices and bank branches was of the value of Rs. 2.44 crores during the period from April, 2004 to March, 2005. The quantity of fake Indian currency notes is miniscule as compared to total value of notes in circulation.

(d) United States of America and India have decided to have bilateral co-operation between the two countries of combat the menance of counterfeiting of currency notes.

Revision of rates of tax by States under VAT

1609. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have revised rates of tax under VAT;

(b) if so, the details thereof;